

# Director's Message

## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF RESEARCH DISCOVERY AT THE NIDDK



As the ninth Director of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), it is my great honor to present this compendium, in which we celebrate the Institute's accomplishments over the past 60 years in supporting and conducting research

on some of the most common, chronic, and costly diseases affecting people in this country and around the world, as well as on diseases and disorders which are less widespread but nonetheless devastating in their impacts.

Diseases and disorders within the NIDDK's mission include diabetes and other endocrine and metabolic diseases, digestive and liver diseases, nutritional disorders, obesity, kidney and urologic diseases, and diseases of the blood. Many of the NIDDK's research programs cut across boundaries of disease and discipline through their applicability to multiple areas of biomedical inquiry and a range of diseases.

Throughout its history, the NIDDK has remained committed to supporting vigorous basic, clinical, and translational research efforts by extramural scientists at academic and other medical research institutions throughout the country, as well as by scientists in the Institute's Intramural Research Program. The NIDDK also maintains strong support for research training and career development for the next generation

of scientists who will carry forth these efforts into the future. To identify key research challenges and opportunities and maximize the health return on research investments, the Institute engages in strategic planning with broad stakeholder input. Through our education and outreach programs, the NIDDK disseminates science-based health information to patients, healthcare providers, and the public.

Ground-breaking scientific research has been driven forward by the efforts of dedicated investigators, as well as the participation of patients in clinical research. The Institute is deeply grateful to the patients and families who participate in NIDDK research studies to benefit others affected by disease. The perspectives of some of these patients are highlighted in this compendium.

The research highlighted here represents just a sampling of the Institute's past and current efforts and future plans. For additional information, I encourage you to visit our web site at: [www.niddk.nih.gov](http://www.niddk.nih.gov).

We hope that you enjoy this retrospective tour of NIDDK-supported research achievements as we look forward to building on this progress to propel scientific discovery in the years ahead toward improving the nation's health.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Griffin Rodgers".

**Griffin P. Rodgers, M.D., M.A.C.P.**

Director

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

National Institutes of Health

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

